

A Scary Marriage Story

By Susan Vogt



Marriage is a daunting commitment in which we give our lives into the service of the beloved. What risks are you willing to take, and what work are you willing to do, to bless your marriage? Learn how Tobias and Sarah did it.

For

Couples

Season

Fall

Needed

A Bible and a little time to read

Prepare in Advance

Although this activity can be done individually, it makes most sense to do it with your spouse. Consult your beloved about whether you want to do it together and decide on a time.

Activity Plan

1. Quiet your minds and bodies while one of you prays for God to be with you, or say following prayer together.

God of Love, _____ years ago we made vows to each other in Your presence to be true to each other in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health; and to love and honor each other, all the days of our lives. Today we want to delve even more deeply into this commitment. Be with us. Amen.

2. Read part of all of the Book of Tobit. (It's 14 chapters which would take about an hour to read the whole book, so if you prefer you can read these passages: Tobit 2:1-10, 3:7-8, 4:5-20, 6:7-9, 7:10-12, 8:1-15, and 11:7-13.

In short, here are the guts of the story:

Tobit was a wise, generous, and God fearing man. He became blind in his old age and sent his son, Tobias, to claim part of his inheritance from Gabael who lived in Media. Tobias made the journey accompanied by the angel, Raphael. On the way Raphael shows Tobias how to use parts of a fish to drive out demons and cure blindness.

Meanwhile, one of Tobit's clan, Raguel lived in the same area of Media and had a daughter, Sarah. Sarah had been betrothed to seven men, each of whom died on their wedding night before they could

have sexual relations. Tobias first went to visit Raguel and asked to marry Sarah. Raguel granted this request but warned him of how the previous seven grooms died.

On the night of their wedding Tobias took the part of the fish that drives out demons and dispelled the curse that had plagued Sarah. They then prayed together for God's protection and Tobias survived the night.

The newly wedded couple then journeyed back to Tobias' father's house and Tobias applied the gall of the fish to his father's eyes and his blindness was cured.

3. Sit quietly with this story for a few minutes to let it sink in and then choose one or several of the following questions to discuss:
 - Which of the six pieces of advice that Tobit gave Tobias (in chapter 4) do you think is most important in your own marriage.
 - Have you ever prayed together as a couple (other than memorized prayers or at a church service)? If not, what's holding you back? See [Who Me, Pray?... With Her?](#) as a starter.
 - How do you feel about the family relationships and customs in this story? Do you think men should ask parents for permission before marrying their daughter? Do you think parents owe their children an inheritance?
 - Do you believe in angels?
 - Do you believe in natural medicines?
 - Do you take Bible stories like this literally or do you interpret them metaphorically. For example, do you understand "angels" as humans who you recognize in time of need and medicines as including the science that God has given us the capability of knowing?
4. Variation: If you are married but doing this activity by yourself, ponder the questions yourself and then consider whether any of them would make interesting conversation with your spouse.

